

**Economic and Social Council**

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Item 10 of the provisional agenda*

Regional cooperation**Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields****Report of the Secretary-General****Addendum****Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention***Summary*

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains resolutions and decisions adopted at the sessions of the regional commissions in the first half of 2005, when four of the five regional commissions held their regular sessions: the Economic Commission for Europe held its sixtieth session in Geneva from 22 to 25 February 2005; the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held its sixty-first session in Bangkok from 12 to 18 May 2005; the Economic Commission for Africa held the thirty-eighth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Abuja from 11 to 15 May 2005; and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia held its twenty-third Ministerial session in Damascus from 9 to 12 May 2005. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which holds its session biennially during even years, held the twenty-third session of the Committee of the Whole on 16 February 2005 in New York and adopted one resolution, which is transmitted to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration.

* E/2005/100.



I. Matters calling for action by the Council

1. At its sixty-first session, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) approved the following draft resolutions and draft decision for adoption by the Council.

A. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Draft resolution I

Mid-term review concerning the functioning of the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions 143 (XXX) of 5 April 1974, 210 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980, 262 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987, 47/3 of 10 April 1991, 48/2 of 23 April 1992, 51/3 of 1 May 1995 and 53/1 of 30 April 1997 on the conference structure of the Commission,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985 on the pattern of conferences, in which the Assembly decided that United Nations bodies may hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a session to be held within its territory has agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved,

Recalling also Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 58/1 of 22 May 2002 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, and in particular paragraph 6 thereof on a mid-term review to be conducted during the sixty-first session,

Recalling also Commission resolution 60/6 of 28 April 2004 on revitalization of the United Nations ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, and in particular paragraphs 1 and 2 thereof regarding the terms of reference of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries and the establishment of an Advisory Council for the Centre,

Recalling further Commission resolution 60/5 of 28 April 2004 on the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific, by which it revised the statute of the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific and changed the name of the Centre,

Taking into account Commission resolutions 61/2 of 18 May 2005 on the statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, 61/3 of 18 May 2005 on the statute of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery, and 61/4 of 18 May 2005 on the statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, in which it revised the statutes of the respective regional institutions, as well as its resolution 61/6 of 18 May 2005 on the

establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development as a follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (all of the above-mentioned institutions being collectively referred to hereunder as "the regional institutions"),

Recognizing that a complete meeting cycle of the thirteen subsidiary bodies of the Commission was concluded at the end of 2004, which makes it possible at the current session of the Commission to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the new conference structure established in accordance with Commission resolution 58/1, while bearing in mind that the new conference structure came into effect only in 2003,

Recognizing also the need for the reporting process under the conference structure to be more streamlined so that the Commission can take timely action on the reports of its subsidiary bodies,

Taking note of the evaluations and recommendations of members and associate members concerning the outcomes of sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies held under the new conference structure, which provide a useful basis for the mid-term review,

Reiterating its support for keeping the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific focused on three key thematic areas, poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues,

Aware of the need for the conference structure to be kept in line with the process of overall reform of the United Nations,

1. *Notes with appreciation* that, since the adoption of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 58/1 on 22 May 2002, a new conference structure has been established in accordance with the pattern set out in paragraph 1 of that resolution;

2. *Commends* the Executive Secretary of the Commission for his efforts to prepare and organize the conferences and meetings under the new structure in an effective and efficient way and to make them correspond more fully to the three key thematic areas, poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues;

3. *Also commends* the Executive Secretary for having completed the reorganization of the secretariat as requested in paragraph 2 of Commission resolution 58/1;

4. *Decides* that, as a result of the mid-term review of the functioning of the conference structure, the following points should override or be integrated into the present pattern of its conference structure, as prescribed in paragraph 1 of Commission resolution 58/1 and, where relevant, the respective terms of reference annexed to the resolution:

(a) *Subsidiary structure*

The thematic committees shall be retained to keep the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific focused on three key thematic areas, poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues. The work of the subcommittees shall be subsumed under the respective

thematic committees beginning in 2006, as a means of strengthening their integration within their respective thematic contexts;

To ensure that the key sectoral issues formerly dealt with by the subcommittees can be addressed more effectively within a thematic framework, the format of the sessions of the thematic committees shall include segments as follows:

(i) Committee on Poverty Reduction: Poverty reduction practices and statistics;

(ii) Committee on Managing Globalization:

Part I: International trade and investment, and transport infrastructure and facilitation and tourism;

Part II: Information, communication and space technology, and environment and sustainable development;

(iii) Committee on Emerging Social Issues: Socially vulnerable groups, and health and development;

To ensure timely review of emerging issues as well as reporting to the Commission, the thematic committees, including parts I and II of the Committee on Managing Globalization, shall meet separately and annually after the session of the Commission for a maximum duration of five days for each session, with the duration depending on the agenda of the committee in question;

The segments under three of the above committees shall be convened either consecutively or simultaneously. The segments under one of the above committees shall be convened consecutively. The secretariat will provide interpretation services in the working languages of the Commission;

(b) Special bodies

The Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries shall hold its sessions prior to the sessions of the Commission, in alternate years with the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries. The maximum duration of the sessions of each of the special bodies will be two days;

The Advisory Council of the United Nations ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, comprising representatives of the Governments of Pacific island developing countries and territories, and also of Australia and New Zealand, shall meet biennially for a maximum duration of one day at the venue of the relevant session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries to provide advice on the Centre's work programme priorities;

(c) Regional institutions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The regional institutions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall continue to function under the terms of reference stipulated in the relevant resolutions, namely, 60/5, 61/2, 61/3, 61/4 and 61/6;

The programmes of work of the regional institutions shall be aligned with the thematic priorities of the Commission under the strategic framework;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure that the thematic sessions of the committees are conducted in a results-oriented manner that yields concrete

outcomes aimed at strengthening the focus and impact of the work of the Commission;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Commission resolution 58/1, to report to the Commission at subsequent sessions on the implementation of the present resolution, focusing in particular on whether the conference structure has served the purpose of improving efficiency and attracting higher and wider representation from members and associate members, which would serve in particular as the basis for the comprehensive review to be conducted during the sixty-third session concerning the functioning of the conference structure;

7. *Decides* to review the conference structure of the Commission, including its thematic and sectoral priorities and subsidiary structure, and to consider the possibility of further revising its structure at its sixty-third session.

Draft resolution II

Statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions 50/5 of 13 April 1994 and 51/1 of 1 May 1995 on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling also the host country agreement signed between the Government of Japan and the United Nations on 14 April 1995,

Noting with appreciation the significant financial and in kind resources that have been provided to the Institute, since its establishment, by the Government of Japan,

Taking into account the recommendations in the evaluation of the Institute carried out in 2003 and the need to integrate the work of the Institute into the programme of work of the Commission,

Taking note of the report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific to the Commission at the current session,

Approves the revised statute as adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution.

Annex

Statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Establishment

1. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "the Institute"), established in May 1970 as the Asian Statistical Institute, and accorded the legal status of a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "ESCAP" or "the Commission") pursuant to Commission resolutions 50/5 of 13 April 1994 and 51/1 of 1 May 1995, shall continue in existence under the terms of the present statute.

2. Participation in the training and other activities of the Institute is open to all members and associate members of the Commission.
3. The Institute has the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

Objectives

4. The objectives of the Institute are to strengthen, through practically oriented training of official statisticians, the capability of the developing members and associate members and economies in transition of the region to collect, analyse and disseminate statistics as well as to produce timely and high-quality statistics that can be utilized for economic and social development planning, and to assist those developing members and associate members and economies in transition in establishing or strengthening their statistical training capability and other related activities.

Functions

5. The Institute shall achieve the above objectives by undertaking such functions as:
 - (a) Training of official statisticians, utilizing existing centres and institutions for training available in member States;
 - (b) Networking and partnership with other international organizations and key stakeholders;
 - (c) Dissemination of information.

Status and organization

6. The Institute shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council"), a Director and staff. The Commission shall keep separate accounts for the Institute.
7. The Institute is located in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, Japan.
8. The activities of the Institute shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. The Institute shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions.

Governing Council

9. The Governing Council shall consist of a representative designated by the Government of Japan and eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The members and associate members elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of five years but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP or his/her representative shall attend the meetings of the Council.
10. The Director of the Institute shall serve as Secretary of the Council.
11. Representatives of (a) States that are not members of the Council, (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies and (c) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate, as well as experts in fields of interest to the

Council, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.

12. The Council shall meet at least once a year and shall adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, who may propose special sessions of the Council at his/her own initiative and shall convene special sessions at the request of a majority of the Council members.

13. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be a majority of its members.

14. The nine representatives constituting the Council under paragraph 9 of the present statute shall have one vote each. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, when that is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

15. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, who shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chairperson or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at the meetings of the Council. If the Chairperson is unable to serve for the full term for which he/she has been elected, the Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson for the remainder of that term.

16. The Council shall review the administrative and financial status of the Institute and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

17. The Council shall review and endorse annual and long-term workplans consistent with the programme of work.

Director and staff

18. The Institute shall have a Director and staff, who shall be ESCAP staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Council will be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post. The Director and Professional staff shall be appointed for a total term, in principle, not exceeding five years. All appointments shall be for a fixed duration and shall be limited to service with the Institute.

19. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the administration of the Institute, the preparation of annual and long-term workplans and the implementation of the programme of work.

Resources of the Institute

20. All members and associate members of ESCAP should be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Institute. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund for the Institute, as referred to in paragraph 6, in which these contributions shall be deposited and utilized solely for the activities of the Institute, subject to paragraph 21 of the present statute.

21. United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other entities should also be encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the operations of the Institute. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for activities of the Institute.

22. The financial resources of the Institute shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Amendments

23. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by means of a resolution of the Commission.

Matters not covered by the present statute

24. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Governing Council under paragraph 12 of the present statute, the pertinent part of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall apply.

Entry into force

25. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.

Draft resolution III

Statute of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 58/5 of 22 May 2002 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery,

Recalling also the agreement between the Government of China and the United Nations regarding the headquarters of the Centre, signed on 19 November 2003,

Noting with appreciation the significant financial resources and facilities that have been provided to the Centre, since its establishment, by the Government of China,

1. *Approves* the revised statute of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery, as adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to seek regular budget resources for the Centre, including posts, within the proposed programme budget of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for the biennium 2006-2007, to strengthen the research and analytical capacity of the Centre, while recognizing the primary role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee in this regard, and also recognizing the principle

that the technical assistance activities of the Centre should be funded by voluntary contributions;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to seek additional voluntary resources to strengthen the financial stability of the Centre.

Annex

Statute of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery

Establishment

1. The Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery, established on 22 May 2002 pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 58/5 of the same date, shall continue in existence under the title "United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery" (hereinafter referred to as "UNAPCAEM" or "the Centre") and under the terms of the present statute.
2. The membership of the Centre shall be identical to the membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "ESCAP" or "the Commission").
3. The Centre has the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

Objectives

4. The objectives of the Centre are to enhance technical cooperation among the members and associate members of ESCAP as well as other interested States Members of the United Nations, through extensive exchange of information and sharing of commercially successful machinery and technology, and to promote research and development and extension of agricultural engineering including machinery and rural industry for poverty reduction in the region.

Functions

5. The Centre shall achieve the above objectives by undertaking such functions as:
 - (a) Assistance in the improvement of agricultural engineering, mechanization, automation, biotechnology and genetic engineering;
 - (b) Enhancement of farm mechanization technologies in addressing issues related to subsistence farming for increased food security and poverty reduction and promoting agro-based small and medium-sized enterprise development and commercial farming to seize opportunities for increased market access and agro-food trade;
 - (c) A focus on an agro-based enterprise cluster concept and enterprise development activities to enhance the capabilities of members in identifying potential agricultural commodities in their respective countries on a clustering basis;
 - (d) Regional cooperation in technology transfer through networking of focal point national institutes in the Centre member countries and other relevant institutions;

(e) Setting up an interactive Internet website to allow members full access to information and technology databases, including the sharing of expert systems and decision support systems in financial management of small and medium-sized enterprises;

(f) Promotion of the technology transfer process from research and development institutes to the agricultural and farm machinery extension systems in member countries for poverty reduction;

(g) Dissemination and exchange of commercially successful machinery and drawings of appropriate tools, machines and equipment;

(h) Training workshops and advisory services on food safety standards and sanitary and phytosanitary issues under the World Trade Organization agricultural trade mandate;

(i) Tapping the resources of developed countries in building the capacity of member countries.

Status and organization

6. The Centre shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council"), a Director, a Deputy Director subject to availability of funds, other staff and a Technical Committee.

7. The Centre is located in Beijing.

8. The activities of the Centre shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. The Centre shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions.

Governing Council

9. The Governing Council shall consist of a representative designated by the Government of China and eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The members and associate members elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary of the Commission or his/her representative shall attend the meetings of the Council.

10. The Director of the Centre shall serve as Secretary of the Council.

11. Representatives of (a) States that are not members of the Council, (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies and (c) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate, as well as experts in fields of interest to the Council, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.

12. The Council shall meet at least once a year and may adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, who may propose special sessions of the Council at his/her own initiative and shall convene such special sessions at the request of a majority of Council members.

13. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be a majority of its members.

14. Each member of the Council shall have one vote. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, when that is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

15. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chairperson or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at the meetings of the Council. If the Chairperson is unable to serve for the full term for which he/she has been elected, the Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson for the remainder of that term.

16. The Council shall review the administrative and financial status of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

Director and staff

17. The Centre shall have a Director, a Deputy Director subject to availability of funds, and staff, who shall be ESCAP staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Director shall be appointed in a manner consistent with United Nations regulations and rules. The Council will be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post.

18. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the administration of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work.

Technical Committee

19. The Centre shall have a Technical Committee consisting of experts from members and associate members of ESCAP and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Members and associate members of ESCAP will be invited to propose candidates for the Technical Committee. Members of the Technical Committee shall be appointed by the Director in consultation with the Executive Secretary. The Director may also invite governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions to propose experts who would best contribute to Technical Committee discussions on a specific topic.

20. The Technical Committee shall be responsible for advising the Director on the formulation of the programme of work and on other technical matters concerning the operations of the Centre.

21. Reports of meetings of the Technical Committee, with the Director's observations thereon, shall be submitted to the Council at its next session.

22. The Chairperson of the Technical Committee shall be elected by the Committee itself at each meeting.

Resources of the Centre

23. All members and associate members of ESCAP should be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Centre. The United Nations

shall administer a joint contribution trust fund in which those contributions shall be deposited.

24. The Centre will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities.

25. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for activities of the Centre.

26. The financial resources of the Centre shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Amendments

27. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by the Commission.

Matters not covered by the present statute

28. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Governing Council under paragraph 12 of the present statute, the pertinent part of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall apply.

Entry into force

29. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission. Members and associate members elected to the Governing Board of the Centre at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission will serve as members of the Governing Council of the Centre until the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2006.

Draft resolution IV

Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 243 (XLI) of 29 March 1985 on the statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology,

Recalling also the agreement regarding the headquarters of the Centre signed between the Government of India and the United Nations on 11 April 1994,

Noting with appreciation the significant financial resources and facilities that have been provided to the Centre, since its establishment, by the Government of India,

1. *Approves* the revised statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, as adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to seek regular budget resources for the Centre, including posts, within the proposed ESCAP programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, to strengthen the research and analytical capacity of the Centre, while recognizing the primary role of the Advisory Committee on

Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee in this regard, and recognizing also the principle that the technical assistance activities of the Centre should be funded by voluntary contributions;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to seek additional voluntary resources to strengthen the financial stability of the Centre.

Annex

Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

Establishment

1. The Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (hereinafter referred to as "the Centre" or "APCTT"), established on 16 July 1977 pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions 159 (XXXI) of 6 March 1975 and 164 (XXXII) of 31 March 1976, shall continue in existence under the terms of the present statute.
2. The membership of the Centre is identical to the membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "ESCAP" or "the Commission").
3. The Centre has the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

Objectives

4. The objectives of the Centre are to assist the members and associate members of ESCAP through strengthening their capabilities to develop and manage national innovation systems; develop, transfer, adapt and apply technology; improve the terms of transfer of technology; and identify and promote the development and transfer of technologies relevant to the region.

Functions

5. The Centre shall achieve the above objective by undertaking such functions as:
 - (a) Research and analysis of trends, conditions and opportunities;
 - (b) Advisory services;
 - (c) Dissemination of information and good practices;
 - (d) Networking and partnership with international organizations and key stakeholders;
 - (e) Training of national personnel, particularly national scientists and policy analysts.

Status and organization

6. The Centre shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council"), a Director and staff, and a Technical Committee.
7. The Centre is located in New Delhi.
8. The activities of the Centre shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the

Commission. The Centre shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions.

Governing Council

9. The Governing Council shall consist of a representative designated by the Government of India and no fewer than eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The members and associate members elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP or his/her representative shall attend the meetings of the Council.

10. The Director of the Centre shall serve as Secretary of the Council.

11. Representatives of (a) States that are not members of the Council, (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies and (c) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate, as well as experts in fields of interest to the Council, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.

12. The Council shall meet at least once a year and adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, who may propose special sessions of the Council at his/her own initiative and shall convene such special sessions at the request of a majority of Council members.

13. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be a majority of its members.

14. Each member of the Council shall have one vote. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, when that is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

15. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chairperson or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at the meetings of the Council. If the Chairperson is unable to serve for the full term for which he/she has been elected, the Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson for the remainder of that term.

16. The Council shall review the administrative and financial status of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

Director and staff

17. The Centre shall have a Director and staff, who shall be ESCAP staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Director shall be appointed in a manner consistent with United Nations regulations and rules. The Council will be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post.

18. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the administration of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work.

Technical Committee

19. The Centre shall have a Technical Committee consisting of experts from members and associate members of ESCAP and from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Members of the Technical Committee shall be appointed by the Director in consultation with the Executive Secretary.

20. The Technical Committee shall be responsible for advising the Director on the formulation of the programme of work and on other technical matters concerning the Centre's operations.

21. Reports of meetings of the Technical Committee, and the Director's observations thereon, shall be submitted to the Council at its next session.

22. The Chairperson of the Technical Committee shall be elected by the Committee itself at each meeting.

Resources of the Centre

23. All members and associate members of ESCAP should be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Centre. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund in which those contributions shall be deposited.

24. The Centre will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities.

25. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for activities of the Centre.

26. The financial resources of the Centre shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Amendments

27. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by the Commission.

Matters not covered by the present statute

28. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Governing Council under paragraph 12 of the present statute, the pertinent part of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall apply.

Entry into force

29. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.

Draft resolution V

Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific resolutions 174 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977, 220 (XXXVIII) of 1 April 1982 and 60/5 of 28 April 2004 on the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific,

Noting with appreciation the significant financial resources that have been provided to the Centre, since its establishment, by the Government of Japan and the facilities that have been provided by the Government of Indonesia,

1. *Approves* the revised statute of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty as adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution, and which include revised functions that strengthen the role of the Centre in coordinating research and analysis on secondary crops;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to seek regular budget resources for the Centre, including posts, within the proposed ESCAP programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, to strengthen the research and analytical capacity of the Centre, while recognizing the primary role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee in this regard, and also recognizing the principle that the technical assistance activities of the Centre should be funded by voluntary contributions;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to seek additional voluntary resources to strengthen the financial stability of the Centre.

Annex

Statute of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific

Establishment

1. The Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "CGPRT Centre"), established in April 1981 pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 174 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977 and its statute adopted by Commission resolution 220 (XXXVIII) of 1 April 1982, shall continue in existence under the title Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "CAPSA" or "the Centre") and under the terms of the present statute.

2. The membership of CAPSA is identical to the membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "ESCAP" or "the Commission").

3. The Centre has the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

Objective

4. The objective of CAPSA is to promote a more supportive policy environment in member countries to enhance the living conditions of rural poor populations in disadvantaged areas, particularly those who rely on secondary crops agriculture for their livelihood, and to promote research and development related to agriculture to alleviate poverty in the Asian and Pacific region.

Functions

5. The Centre shall achieve the above objective by undertaking such functions as:
- (a) Coordination of socio-economic and policy research on secondary crops;
 - (b) Networking and partnership with other international organizations and key stakeholders;
 - (c) Research and analysis of trends and opportunities with regard to improving the economic status of rural populations;
 - (d) Production, packaging and dissemination of information and successful practices on poverty reduction;
 - (e) Dissemination of information and good practices on poverty reduction measures;
 - (f) Training of national personnel, particularly national scientists and policy analysts;
 - (g) Advisory services.

Status and organization

6. CAPSA shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council"), a Director and staff, and a Technical Committee.
7. CAPSA is located in Bogor, Indonesia.
8. The activities of CAPSA shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. CAPSA shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions.

Governing Council

9. The Governing Council shall consist of a representative nominated by the Government of Indonesia and eight representatives of members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The members and associate members elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary of the Commission or his/her representative shall attend the meetings of the Council.
10. The Director of the Centre shall serve as Secretary of the Council.
11. Representatives of (a) States that are not members of the Council, (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies and (c) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate, as well as experts in fields of interest to the

Council, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.

12. The Council shall meet at least once a year and may adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, who may propose special sessions of the Council at his/her own initiative and shall convene such special sessions at the request of a majority of Council members.

13. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be a majority of its members.

14. Each member of the Council shall have one vote. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, when that is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

15. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chairperson or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at the meetings of the Council. If the Chairperson is unable to serve for the full term for which he/she has been elected, the Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson for the remainder of that term.

16. The Council shall review the administrative and financial status of CAPSA and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

Director and staff

17. CAPSA shall have a Director and staff, who shall be ESCAP staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Director shall be appointed in a manner consistent with United Nations regulations and rules. The Council will be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post.

18. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the administration of CAPSA and the implementation of its programme of work.

Technical Committee

19. CAPSA shall have a Technical Committee consisting of experts from members and associate members of ESCAP and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Members of the Technical Committee shall be appointed by the Director in consultation with the Executive Secretary.

20. The Technical Committee shall be responsible for advising the Director on the formulation of the programme of work and on other technical matters concerning the operations of CAPSA.

21. Reports of meetings of the Technical Committee, and the Director's observations with respect thereto, shall be submitted to the Council at its next session.

22. The Chairperson of the Technical Committee shall be elected by the Committee itself at each meeting.

Resources of the Centre

23. All members and associate members of ESCAP should be urged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Centre. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund in which those contributions shall be deposited.

24. The Centre will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities.

25. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for the activities of CAPSA.

26. The financial resources of CAPSA shall be administered in accordance with the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules.

Amendments

27. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by the Commission.

Matters not covered by the present Statute

28. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Governing Council under paragraph 16 of the present statute, the pertinent part of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall apply.

Entry into force

29. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission. Members and associate members elected to the Governing Board of the former CGPRT Centre at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission will serve as members of the Governing Council of CAPSA until the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2006.

Draft resolution VI

Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the particularly rapid development in information and communication technology and its applications, and their implications for economic and social development, which have posed unprecedented challenges for developing countries in need of efficient, informed and timely access to information, information services, tools, best practices and other information and communication technology-related resources,

Expressing grave concern about the prevailing digital divide between countries and within countries and communities, and its implications for development and the persistence of poverty,

Acknowledging the importance of information and communication technology for development and for building inclusive knowledge societies, as well as the role of the United Nations in promoting regional cooperation through partnerships with all relevant stakeholders,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted on 12 December 2003 at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, which called for capacity-building with an emphasis on creating a critical mass of qualified and skilled information and communication technology professionals and experts, the promotion of regional cooperation in the field of capacity-building by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and fostering effective international and regional cooperation among Governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders, including international financial institutions,

Recalling also the Tokyo Declaration adopted on 15 January 2003 by Governments of the Asian and Pacific region as the region's input to the World Summit, which identified information and communication technology development, capacity-building and fostering of partnerships as priority areas for action in advancing the region's information society,

Further recalling Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific resolution 57/4 of 25 April 2001 on regional cooperation in information and communication technologies for development, and recalling General Assembly resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolutions 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which the Assembly adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration and resolved, inter alia, to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, were available to all, and 57/144 of 16 December 2002 on the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 57/295 of 20 December 2002 on information and communication technologies for development and 56/189 of 21 December 2001 on human resources development, in which the Assembly made several references to information technologies,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 57/270 of 20 December 2002 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling its resolution 2002/2 of 19 July 2002 on restructuring the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, including the establishment of a subcommittee on information, communications and space technology,

Noting with satisfaction the outstanding success achieved by a number of countries in the region in the long-term development of their information and communication technology sectors and in harnessing new technologies for their national development,

Noting also with satisfaction the work of such international organizations as the International Telecommunication Union and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity,

Acknowledging, in particular, the important work of the Telecommunity in facilitating capacity-building in information and communication technologies based on demand by its member States,

Recognizing the advantages of regional resource centres on information and communication technology development issues in Asia and the Pacific that may optimize the sharing of expertise on information and communication technology in the region and further improve the effectiveness of regional capacity-building activities and the sharing of tools and processes,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for its offer to host the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development and to bear its institutional and operational costs,

Cognizant of the need to avoid any possible duplication between the work of the Centre and the human resources development work of the Telecommunity and other concerned international organizations,

1. *Decides* to establish the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, which will contribute to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific programme of work in the area of training in information and communication technology as decided by the Commission in its resolution 61/6;

2. *Approves* the statute of the Centre, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution, as the basis for its operation;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps for the prompt establishment of the Centre, including the conclusion of a headquarters agreement between the host country and the United Nations;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations and other international organizations and agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations in the field concerned, to provide support to the Centre and cooperate in the implementation of its work programme;

5. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to establish mechanisms for close coordination between the Centre and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity in its human resources development work programme, and to avoid possible duplication with the Telecommunity in the formulation of the Centre's workplans;

6. *Invites* all members and associate members to participate actively in monitoring and evaluating the work of the Centre in order to ensure that its activities do not duplicate those of other institutions and agencies in the region;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report annually to the Commission on the progress made by the Centre in (a) capacity-building to bridge the digital divide, (b) creating a sustainable institutional framework for the training of trainers in the field of information and communication technology and (c) enhancing regional cooperation in human resources development in that field;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report in 2008 on the performance of the Centre, in particular regarding the complementary and value-added contribution of its work to that of other relevant international organizations,

which would serve as the basis for a mid-term review by the Commission at its sixty-fourth session, in 2008;

9. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a comprehensive report on the Centre's work based on the findings of the mid-term review, including an assessment of its financial sustainability and the complementary and value-added contribution of its work to that of other concerned international organizations, which would serve as the basis for a comprehensive review by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session, in 2010;

10. *Decides* to assess the performance of the Centre, on the basis of the findings of the comprehensive review by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session, and to determine whether to proceed with the operation of the Centre thereafter.

Annex

Statute of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development

Establishment

1. An Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (hereinafter referred to as "APCICT") is established, with a membership identical to the membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "ESCAP" or "the Commission").

2. APCICT shall have the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

Objective

3. The objective of APCICT is to build the capacity of members and associate members of ESCAP through training programmes in the use of information and communication technology (ICT) for the purposes of socio-economic development.

Functions

4. In pursuance of the objective stated in paragraph 3, APCICT shall have such functions as:

(a) Enhancing knowledge and skills in ICT for policy makers and ICT professionals;

(b) Enhancing the capacity of ICT trainers and ICT training institutions by providing for training-of-trainers programmes and exchanges of trainers and experts;

(c) Providing advisory services on human resources development programmes to members and associate members;

(d) Undertaking analytical studies related to human resources development in ICT, including identifying training needs and sharing best practices on human resources development programmes and training methods.

Status and organization

5. APCICT shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council"), a Director and staff.
6. APCICT shall be located in the Republic of Korea.
7. The activities of APCICT shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. APCICT shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions.

Governing Council

8. APCICT shall have a Governing Council consisting of a representative nominated by the Government of the Republic of Korea and eight representatives of members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The Council shall be elected for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary of the Commission or his/her representative shall attend the meetings of the Council. An interim Council shall be elected by ESCAP and constituted upon the adoption of the present statute. The Council shall be reconfirmed at the sixty-second session of the Commission.
9. The Director of APCICT shall serve as Secretary of the Council.
10. Representatives of (a) States that are not members of the Council, (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies and (c) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate, as well as experts in fields of interest to the Council, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.
11. The Council shall meet at least once a year and may adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, who may propose special sessions of the Council at his/her own initiative and shall convene such special sessions at the request of a majority of Council members.
12. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be a majority of its members.
13. Each member of the Council shall have one vote. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, when that is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.
14. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chairperson or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at the meetings of the Council. If the Chairperson is unable to serve for the full term for which he/she has been elected, the Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson for the remainder of that term.
15. The Council shall be responsible for advising the Director on the formulation of the work programme. The Council shall review the administration and financial status of APCICT and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

Director and staff

16. APCICT shall have a Director and staff, who shall be ESCAP staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Director shall be appointed in a manner consistent with United Nations regulations and rules. The Council will be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post.

17. The Director shall be appointed for one year and be eligible for reappointment. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the administration of APCICT and the implementation of its programme of work.

Resources of the Centre

18. The operation of APCICT shall not involve additional regular budget resources of ESCAP. All members and associate members of ESCAP should be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution, on a voluntary basis, to the operations of APCICT. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund in which those contributions shall be deposited.

19. APCICT will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities.

20. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for activities of APCICT.

21. The financial resources of APCICT shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Amendments

22. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by the Commission.

Matters not covered by the present statute

23. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Governing Council under paragraph 11 of the present statute, the pertinent part of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall apply.

Entry into force

24. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.

Draft decision

Venue of the sixty-second session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering the recommendation of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to accept the invitation of the Government of Indonesia to host the sixty-second session of the Commission,

1. *Expresses* its gratitude to the Government of Indonesia for its generous offer to host the sixty-second session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;

2. *Approves* the holding of the sixty-second session of the Commission in Indonesia in 2006.

B. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Draft resolution

Admission of the Federal Republic of Germany as a member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was set up by Economic and Social Council resolution 106 (VI) of 25 February 1948, which states that membership of the Commission shall be open to Members of the United Nations in North, Central and South America and in the Caribbean area, and to France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

Bearing in mind also that the Commission was set up on the basis of the participation of all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and those which have had special relations of a historical, cultural, geographical or economic nature with the region,

Recalling that, in this spirit, the Commission subsequently admitted Spain in 1979, Portugal in 1984 and Italy in 1990,

Considering that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has communicated to the Commission, through the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, its desire to be admitted to membership of the Commission,¹

Taking into account the continuous historical, cultural and economic links that have existed between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Latin American and Caribbean countries throughout the history of the region and the important and growing contributions which German cooperation agencies have been making through the Commission to the development of Latin America and the Caribbean in recent years,

1. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the request of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for admission as a member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

2. *Approves* the admission of the Federal Republic of Germany as a member of the Commission and to this effect authorizes the amendment of paragraph 3 (a) of the terms of reference of the Commission by the insertion of the words "the Federal Republic of Germany", between the words "and to" and the word "France".

¹ See note by the secretariat LC/L.2254 (PLEN.23/3).

C. Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia

Draft resolution I

Damascus Declaration on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which was adopted by Heads of State and Government by General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000,

Recognizing the importance of realizing the major challenge currently facing the region, which lies in making globalization a positive force that will work in the interests of the peoples of the region by creating a shared future where the focus is on the highest and most equitable humanitarian principles,

Recognizing also that the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the region is a national responsibility, both with respect to identifying national development goals and targets and to adopting the general policies necessary to ensure that those goals and targets are achieved by 2015,

Stressing the need for the developed countries to honour their commitments towards developing countries, which represents the second part of the development partnership equation, and further affirming the relationship between the liberalization of international trade, opportunities for developing countries to gain access to global markets, and Millennium Development Goals, while emphasizing the importance of coordination between developing countries,

Affirming the importance of intensifying cooperation between the countries of the region in order to realize the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

Commending the efforts of the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia in that regard, including the report on progress made submitted at the twenty-third session of the Commission,

1. *Affirms* the importance of increasing economic growth and linking that growth to the formulation of strategies for the eradication of poverty and unemployment and the achievement of social integration, with a view to realizing the Millennium Development Goals, including by adopting the general policies necessary in respect of labour, social security, the improvement of living conditions, particularly for vulnerable persons, the eradication of corruption and the strengthening of accountability;

2. *Urges* member countries to coordinate at the regional level and work together in order to formulate coordinated and unified Arab positions in advance of the meeting that will be held in New York in September 2005, five years after the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and to update Millennium Development Goal monitoring and follow-up systems;

3. *Calls upon* the United Nations institutions that are working in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region to coordinate and work together in order to meet regional needs and to focus, in the meetings of the regional coordination group organized by the Commission, on the progress of the region towards the realization of those goals;

4. *Requests* the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia to provide support to member countries in realizing the Millennium Development Goals, including by building capacities to formulate policies, monitor the progress made, measure its impact and prepare regional reports;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the progress made in this regard to the Commission at its twenty-fourth session.

II. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

Economic Commission for Africa

Summary of the Abuja Ministerial Statement

1. The thirty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa/Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 14 and 15 May 2005, concluded with the adoption of a Ministerial Statement.

2. The Ministerial Statement recognized that strong political will, as well as bold and decisive action, was needed to establish the conditions for achieving sustained economic growth and eradicating poverty, as well as promoting sustainable development in Africa. The Ministers reaffirmed the vital importance and urgency of achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa as a framework for reducing poverty and advancing development in the continent. While noting the progress achieved in some parts of the continent in that regard, they concluded that the broad picture was not satisfactory on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. They therefore agreed to prepare an African Common Position to review the Goals, setting out some key actions that they must take as policy makers to achieve the Goals in Africa, as well as to highlight critical actions that the international community must take to enable Africa to meet those objectives.

The fruits of growth must be increased and shared

3. The Ministers assessed that progress towards significantly reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals had been hampered by insufficient economic growth, and because the benefits of the growth achieved were not, for the most part, shared broadly across society. Going forward, it would be important to expand growth in sectors that would generate greater employment, and to invest more intensively in sectors such as health and education that build human capacity to engage in productive economic activity. Other factors limiting growth and the spread of its fruits included weak governance, lack of transparency and corruption, the impact of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other diseases, gender inequality, violent conflicts and inadequate capacity, as well as insufficient public investment and internal and external resource mobilization. They therefore resolved to develop holistic and comprehensive strategies to address those many challenges simultaneously. They also committed themselves to developing strategies for generating decent and productive work for men and women as well as youth in Africa, and to explicitly address employment-generation issues in national poverty reduction strategies.

Towards local ownership and more effective national poverty reduction and growth strategies

4. While acknowledging the progress achieved in recent years in the Poverty Reduction Strategy process, the Ministers agreed that more work was needed to deepen national ownership and leadership and that the Millennium Development Goals must be integrated as key objectives in the Poverty Reduction Strategy process. Moreover, PRS must have broader and longer-term perspectives and a deepening of ownership through meaningful stakeholder consultation, addressing gender equality, population growth, capacity and regional issues, including migration and other regional public goods policies. Country-specific realities also needed to be addressed, with particular attention to the special needs of the least developed countries, and post-conflict and other fragile economies. In that regard, they noted that much had been learned through the African Learning Group on PRSS organized by ECA.

Greater focus needed on trade, infrastructure and agriculture

5. The Ministers highlighted the vital role of trade as an engine of growth, which required expanded markets and much better access to the international as well as continental markets. They therefore underscored the importance for the continent of a fair, non-discriminatory, predictable, multilateral rules-based trading system as well as the need for significant improvement in market access, particularly in agriculture and in other export areas of interest to African countries. Within Africa, regional initiatives were needed to open up and encourage trade in goods and services among member States. They called for the elimination of trade-distorting domestic support and export subsidies that had harmful implications for African commodity exports. They also called upon World Trade Organization (WTO) members to work to ensure a successful sixth WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in December, and to set the stage for the early conclusion of the Doha Trade Round in 2006.

6. In relation to general regional public goods such as research and extension for agriculture or addressing maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and other diseases, regional approaches were needed. Inasmuch as the regional economic communities were critical to collective action, rationalizing them, harmonizing their work and enabling them to better implement programmes at the subregional level would greatly enhance efforts towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

7. Given the critical importance of agriculture to development, poverty reduction, and food security in Africa, they agreed that the sector deserved special attention and that investment in integrated water and agriculture development must urgently be scaled up and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme supported and applied. Recognizing the role of the private sector as the primary engine of growth, the Ministers resolved to work to create the necessary enabling environment including the provision of peace and security, quality public institutions that promote efficiency, improvements in physical infrastructure, protection of the environment and natural resources.

Financing a "big push" for Africa

8. The Ministers endorsed the call made by the Secretary-General in his report "In larger freedom: towards development security and human rights for all"

(A/59/2005) that developing countries must draw up, by 2006, practical national strategies to meet the Millennium Development Goals, assess the financial requirements and commit themselves to making the necessary public investments. They also agreed that Africa must work harder to mobilize the domestic resources to meet the Goals. They recognized, however, that Africa's progress towards the Millennium Development Goals must be accelerated now through a significant increase in resources from outside. In that connection, they acknowledged the call in ECA's report for "a big push" in financial support for Africa from the international community in line with the global commitment to meeting the Millennium Development Goals, and in particular, the Commission's proposal for a major fund to develop African infrastructure. They warmly welcomed ECA's call to double official development assistance (ODA) to Africa and also proposed the creation of an international financing facility to provide front-loading of aid flows for enhancing predictability and planning. Further, they called on the G-8 leaders to commit during the Gleneagles summit in July to meeting their existing ODA promises, as well as to helping to accelerate progress by concretely contributing to Africa's Millennium Development Goal financing needs in line with the recommendations in the reports. They also reiterated the repeated emphasis in previous meetings for international action to ensure a sustainable exit from Africa's onerous debt burden. In line with ECA's recommendation that debt relief cover multilateral and bilateral debt, as well as low-income countries that are not part of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and reduce debt stock and debt service by up to 100 per cent.

Improving aid management and mutual accountability

9. The Ministers reviewed the report entitled, "The mutual review of development effectiveness in the context of NEPAD", which was commissioned by NEPAD and prepared by ECA together with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Development Assistance Committee. They reaffirmed that future editions of the report should appear every two years, but noted that more frequent updates on progress or reviews on specific issues in response to specific requirements might be needed. They proposed that, in future, the findings of the African Peer Review Mechanism country studies should provide a foundation for the monitoring of performance on the African side. They noted particularly the strong interest as evidenced by Governments of African countries in acceding to the African Peer Review Mechanism. On the partner side, through the Monterrey Consensus, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and other initiatives, development partners had committed to intensifying efforts for enhanced ODA in terms of quality and quantity, harmonization with national development strategies, composition, allocation and predictability. They urged them to meet those commitments.

Fostering greater institutional coherence and effectiveness

10. They recognized that ECA continued to play a key role in promoting the economic and social development of the continent. Now that the African Union had clearly articulated a strategic programme and played its pivotal role in providing political leadership at the regional level, they looked forward to enhanced collaboration between ECA and the AU.